

The Fort Erie Times

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Thursday, March 17, 2016



Community leaders predict bright future **3**



Prom Project Niagara seeks formal wear **10**

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

The Bridgeburg Bunny Hop takes place this Saturday at Regional Limousine. Weston Allen and his sister, Isabel Brady are pictured here with the Easter Bunny on Jarvis Street. For the full story see page 8.



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Redekop: 'The state of Fort Erie is strong'

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

According to Mayor Wayne Redekop, the state of Fort Erie is strong and the town's future is bright.

At the annual State of Fort Erie Address held at Bridgewater Country Club last Thursday morning, Redekop spoke about the challenges and successes the Town of Fort Erie is currently dealing with.

Keynote speakers also included Chamber president Rick Phibbs and Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation manager Jim Thibert.

The event, hosted by the Greater Fort Erie Chamber, allowed the community's leaders to address the town's development while helping residents to understand issues at large and future visions.

According to the mayor, the Town of Fort Erie is "fortunate to have such a good council which consists of individuals who all get along with each other."

"They're very responsive to their residents and they have one objective and that objective is to ensure that this community

prospers," Redekop said.

"I've seen a lot of councils over the years, I've watched councils, I've been on councils, and I've participated in council meetings for almost 40 years. This is a good group of people," he added.

Redekop noted June will be an important month for Fort Erie because celebrations that include a two-day history conference and ceremony will mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway.

There have also been a number of changes at Town Hall, including the addition of the Town's new corporate communications director, Janine Tessmer, as well as the development of a strategic plan that outlines goals and initiatives to provide a leadership focus for the community.

As part of the strategic plan, Redekop said two councillors have been assigned to each of the plan's three pillars: to create a vibrant and growing community, to create effective and sustainable infrastructure and to build strong customer service relationships and improve communications.

Redekop said Town staff have begun to measure the number

of customers and stakeholders it has served, promptness for clearing complaints and the turnaround time for permit applications in order to improve service.

He noted major achievements, including a \$2.2 million project to replace the town's LED lights, a project that is expected to be completed by the end of April. He said the project will see a 30 to 70 per cent savings on energy consumption and a 95 per cent savings on maintenance.

"One of the biggest achievements," Redekop said, "is the completion of the Bay Beach Master Plan," which received unanimous support from council.

"When completed, it will not only be a sparkling jewel in Fort Erie's crown but in the Region's waterfront crown," Redekop said.

The Town worked with residents through community workshops and gathered input to develop a plan that will see "top class" washrooms, change room facilities, event and play facilities and new sidewalks and street-scaping implemented along Erie Road.

CONTINUED > PAGE 4



SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Rick Phibbs, president Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Wayne Redekop and Jim Thibert, general manager of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation spoke at the annual State of Fort Erie address last Thursday at Bridgewater Country Club.

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Mayor says town is 'on a good financial footing'

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 3

The Town is also currently developing a long-term working plan to deal with parking issues during the summer months in Crystal Beach.

"The plan will be implemented in partnership with the community, service clubs and organizations," Redekop said.

"School children "will get involved with everything" from fundraising to building boardwalks and planting grass."

Town staff are also conducting a re-organization of their human resources, something Redekop said hasn't been done since 2004. He said the re-organization will help the town "be posi-

tioning and prepared to deal with future challenges."

Property taxes have increased in Fort Erie by 2.1 per cent this year due to the municipality's infrastructure gap.

"Historically, municipal councils and regional councils have balanced their budgets by ignoring capital projects. The provincial government requires municipal governments put an end to that," Redekop said.

"Looking at the future and making sure the infrastructure in the ground is maintained, the next generation won't have to carry the burden that we're carrying now because of decisions made in the past."

To combat the infrastruc-

ture gap, Redekop said Town staff have been working on an asset management plan to identify what we need to be addressed and what the financial needs will be.

"This council has agreed to, along with the previous council, add additional money to our reserves and that hurts. This year, as an example, we put an extra \$800,000 into reserves for infrastructure renewal. That equates to over three per cent of our municipal levy," Redekop said.

"I'd like to tell you that's not going to happen again in the future but it's inevitable because we have an obligation to make sure we maintain our infrastructure."

Town staff will continue to look for efficiencies in other parts of its operation in order to make sure they can cushion whatever the tax implications may be going forward, he said.

One of the challenges the Town faces is its ability to maintain 325 kilometres of water lines and 202 kilome-

tres of sewer lines, a tremendous burden given the way the municipality is spread out," he said.

Other projects the Town has undertaken include \$1.25 million in road refurbishments, the reconstruction of the Central Avenue Bridge that will be completed later this summer, improvements to the Crescent Park storm drainage system and the development of a water-strategy to "allow (Town staff) to determine where (they) can make investments that will help the community prosper in the future."

The Town has also undertaken a plan to remove ash trees in Fort Erie due to Emerald Ash Borer infestation that will kill most of the town's ash trees in the next few years, he said.

Other projects to begin later this year include the reconstruction of Doncaster Road and upgrades are expected to be made to the Rosedell Water Treatment Plant.

"The good news is for Fort Erie that the Town is on good

financial footing," Redekop said.

He added the Town has \$2.8 million in reserves. Although it has \$10 million in debt, he said.

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"The good news is for Fort Erie that the Town is on good

draw business professionals such as doctors and nurses away to work in the U.S.

He said there are jobs in Fort Erie but the difficulty is finding individuals to fill those positions.

Thibert highlighted some of the major projects planned for the town, which include re-development of Miller's Creek Marina and the construction of the Canadian Motor Speedway.

He said the developers behind the speedway intend to submit their site plans later this month.

Once those two projects are underway, Thibert said Buffalo-based developers Carl Paladino, Bill Mosey, David Kompsom and Joel Castle — who purchased Fort Erie Race Track and the entire 334-acre property in August 2014 — plan to invest in a \$284 million project which will include the construction of a hotel, indoor water park and other developments on land surrounding the racetrack.

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Comment

Point of View

Remembering women serving in the Canadian military

Greetings from Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230. We will be posting a column once a month or so in The Fort Erie Times and this will be a chance for you to have an article published.

We are looking for various stories from veterans (new and old), mothers, wives, siblings, and best friends expressing your views. We would like to see stories telling the public what war is like through the eyes of those left at home.

The legion is dedicated to ensuring Canadians have opportunities to remember Canada's fallen veterans. Whether on a national scale such as the National War Memorial, or locally through community memorials and cenotaphs, Legion members work tirelessly to advocate for, fundraise and coordinate the building and maintenance of memorials and cenotaphs to ensure their community has a place where people can gather to remember our fallen heroes. We encourage all Canadians to visit their local war memorial or cenotaph and take a moment to pause, to reflect, and to remember.

Through the eyes of a retired air woman, March is a great month for our first article to appear, as we celebrate International Woman's Day. We honour those women

Legion

who have put their lives on the line for their country and those women who had the courage to fight for our gender. Since 1910, March 8 has marked the annual day recognizing the issuance of the world's first pilot licence to a woman. Since 1914 this has also been International Women's Day.

Canada remembers women in the Canadian military. The changing roles of women during the war helped lead to great changes in the way society looked at women. Their service and sacrifice during the First World War helped influence the decision to grant federal voting rights to many Canadian women in 1917.

In 1974, six years before the job of Canadian Armed Forces pilot was opened to women, Major Wendy Clay got her wings. Major Clay, who would go on to earn the rank of major-general, was a doctor in Canada's military. She undertook the pilot training to have a better understanding of the medical needs of pilots and other aircrew.

To join the ranks with Major Clay three female captains undertook training to get their wings after the occupation was opened to women. For these three

women, Captains Deanna Brasseur, Leah Mosher and Nora Bottomley, the runway to earning their wings was burdened with a heavy amount of attention and pressure because of their trailblazer status. Captain Brasseur said that the age and rank difference between her and the male pilots led to them feeling isolated from the training group. Following these first three women, the Canadian Armed Forces would add an entire 40 female pilots as part of its initial wave of training.

Captain Brasseur, later major, along with Captain Jane Foster went on to become one of the first women to pilot a CF-188 Hornet. She is also noted in the annals of military aviation history for being the first woman to investigate a military aviation accident in Canada.

In recent years, women of the Royal Canadian Air Force have gone on to achieve such successes as those of Brigadier-General Lise Bourgon, a former helicopter pilot who assumed command of Joint Task Force-Iraq in May 2015. Also in 2015, Lieutenant-Colonel Christine Vautour became the first woman to hold that rank. She was also the first female commander of Joint Task Force North and the first woman appointed as Chief Military

Engineer.

The Canadian military has appointed a female navy captain to head its support unit for ill and injured soldiers. Major France Langlois, a seasoned military officer, will take over the much-criticized Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) she helped create in 2008 when she was its Deputy Commanding Officer. She left JPSU in 2012.

Women are an integral part of Canadian military, serving at all ranks from private to general, and in all environments - with no restrictions on the jobs they can undertake. The Canadian Armed Forces are a world leader in terms of the proportion of women in its military and in the areas in which they may serve. Among its allies, Canada is highly regarded as being at the forefront of military gender integration.

Canadian women have a long and proud history of military service in our country, overcoming many barriers to work in uniform in an expanding variety of roles over the years. This impressive tradition continues today, with females now serving alongside their male counterparts in all military trades. Approximately 10,000 women currently serve in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Barbara Gerow-Hopkins for Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230.

POSTMEDIA

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The Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Do you remember?



Unfortunately, we received no calls about the two girls in last week's photo, so it will go back into the unidentified people binders here at the Fort Erie Historical Museum. This week's photo has two clues written on the back: Arnold Collins and McLeod owner. We would like to hear from you if you remember him or the ladies in the photo. Please call the museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.ca.

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Comment

Learn about the dramatic events of June 2, 1866

Historians often tell us that truth is stranger than fiction. Local history researcher and author June Chipp says that her investigations have proven the truth of that saying many times.

If you were writing a thriller about the Fenians in Fort Erie, according to June, you could not imagine better heroes than Leslie McCrae and Richard Ketcham or a more unbelievable plot than the events that took place at Fort Erie when these commanders and their soldiers stood in the centre of the

Amy Roebuck
Fort Erie Library

street and faced an army five times their size.

Come to the Centennial branch of the Fort Erie Public Library on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m., and enjoy learning more about the shocking and dramatic events of June 2, 1866. Copies of *Duty and*

Honour: the stand against the Fenians in Fort Erie will be available for sale and signing.

Are you interested in creating with the library's 3D printer? If you are, and you are 16 years of age or over, please register for a one hour 3D printing primer being held on Tuesday, April 5, starting at 2 p.m. at the Centennial branch. Participants will learn how to set up the printer, work with 3D models and print their own designs. Those interested should contact Michael Schell at mischell@fepl.ca or call 905-871-2546, ext. 301.

Space is limited to five participants, but more dates will be added if interest is shown. Schell also offers one-on-one tech help on Tuesday, March 22, if you have an electronic device such as an e-reader or iPad, and need a little assistance. Tech help begins at 2 p.m. at the Centennial branch.

Tonight's movie at the Centennial branch is *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, part two*, which continues the story of Katniss Everdeen and the rebellion of District 13 against the evil rulers of the Capitol. The books by Suzanne Collins on which

the Hunger Games movies are based, as well as the earlier films, are all available in the library collection. Next week's film is *The Intern*, a comedy-drama starring Robert DeNiro and Anne Hathaway. The Intern will be screened at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday afternoon, March 22 at 2:00 p.m., and encoded at the Centennial branch on Thursday, March 24, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Stories for ages 3s

will be offered at the

Stevensville branch on

Monday and on Wednesday

at the Crystal Ridge branch.

Family Time for families

with children from birth on up will be held on Tuesday morning at the Centennial branch.

All branches of the Fort Erie Public Library will be closed on Friday, March 25 and Monday, March 28 for the Easter holiday. Branches will be open for regular hours on Saturday, March 26. Visit the library online anytime at www.fepl.ca to download ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, music and movies.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

Letters to the Editor

LEGION WELCOMES NEW CHEF

It is with sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230 in Ridgeway that we bid farewell to their Friday Night Fish Fry.

After over 60 years of dedicated service, it has come time for them to

retire from their Friday Night kitchen duties. While the ladies will no longer be behind the fryers, they will continue on with their monthly euchre nights, annual bazaar and other fundraising activities in support of our branch.

This is one of those times where change is a very

good thing. The Ridgeway Legion Branch 230 executive board is proud and pleased to welcome Patti Lucas of Ridgeway as the new commander and chief of our Friday Night Fish Fry.

We are pleased to have Patti's expertise in our kitchen. Her commitment to quality, value and

sanitation is unmatched. Our Friday Night menu will be new and improved with an expanded offering providing classic fish and chips as well as a few new specials. We have done extensive research to ensure this to be an upgrade and a welcome change in Ridgeway.

Patti currently owns and operates Patti's Place, a wonderful diner in downtown Welland.

She is also the star of our five dollar breakfast on Saturday mornings during our Ridgeway Winter Farmers' Market. Come and meet Patti and put her fish to the test

Friday, March 25 starting at 1 p.m. for a very special Good Friday Fish Fry. For dine-in or take-out, all are welcome at Ridgeway Legion Branch 230.

JESSE BOLES, WAYS AND MEANS COORDINATOR
ROYAL CANADIAN
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I would like to thank all the donors for their generous donations to the Tomlinson Family Fundraiser.

There are so many donors that the list is endless. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You all made this event

a wonderfully successful day. From the silent auction gifts, to everyone who donated their time and effort to make this

event a great day for the Tomlinson Family.

We more than achieved our goals and I am eternally grateful that we were able to

help the family in their time of need.

Once again, thank you. I am proud of our community and its

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FORT ERIE TIMES ■ THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

Easter Bunny will hop her way to Bridgeburg

SARAH FERGUSON

Fort Erie Times

The Easter Bunny will hop her way to Bridgeburg for a fun affair.

Members of the Bridgeburg Downtown Improvement Association have been busy preparing for the second annual Bridgeburg Bunny Hop on Saturday, March 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

BIA director Julie Brady said families enjoyed the Bunny Hop last year "because it's a little bit different than a traditional Easter egg hunt."

Egg hunters are reminded to bring their baskets because "every child has a fair chance to get some sweet treats from the local businesses."

Afterward, everyone is invited to an Easter party at former Fire Station 2, at 207 Jarvis St. for more treats, face painting, a visit with Annie the Clown and egg colouring.

There will also be a chance to enter to win Easter baskets and tickets for free popcorn and hot chocolate.

The Easter Bunny and Olaf will be at the former fire station and they will walk along Jarvis Street to stop and pose for photos.

Last year, 249 kids registered for the first annual Bunny Hop.

"We hope they all return and we would love to see new families out on Jarvis Street as well," Brady said.

"We did have more people than expected last year and

had some long lines inside the hall, for the food and registration, so the Bridgeburg BIA will be better prepared this year and hope to eliminate that problem," she added.

Brady encourages families to attend the Bunny Hop, especially if they haven't been to Jarvis Street in a while.

"There have been many changes in the Bridgeburg Area over the past year and a half, and we hope residents come out for the free event to spend an afternoon with their family," Brady said.

"Guests can have the opportunity to step inside the new businesses that have opened, meet the owners, and see what they have to offer."

ferguson@postmedia.com

WHO: The Bridgeburg Downtown Business Improvement Association

WHAT: The Bridgeburg Bunny Hop. The free event will offer free children's activities and a chance for egg hunters to search for treats at participating businesses along Jarvis Street. Free maps will be provided.

WHEN: Saturday, March 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Registration for the egg hunt and children's activities will take place at Regional Limousine, at 209 Jarvis St.

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates hit the streets last week to knock on doors to talk to Fort Erie residents about increasing prescription costs for seniors.

Health Corner

Cavity Free For Life?

Part Two:

We talked about the bacteria as one of three keys to tooth decay. Second key to your dental decay is sugar.

Key Number Two – Sugar

Do you remember the name of two major bacteria in our mouth that I mentioned last time? Remember these and mention these to your dentist. You might surprise them!

They are *strept. mutans* and *Lactobacillus*. These bacteria use sugar to supply their energy to survive. It is actually very simple process. Sugar is taken in by them and goes through some enzymatic reactions to create energy. The by-product, or waste, is called lactic acid.

Now this is how the whole story goes.

When you eat sugar, and you do not clean it out right away, you are feeding the cavity causing bacteria who love sugars for dinner.

When they eat sugar, they shed lactic acid from their bodies. Our bodies are made of mostly calcium which can easily be dissolved in acid. So the lactic acid goes to the tooth surface and



Dr. John Inigo

disolve a little bit of the tooth surface each time it gets there.

Imagine how many times you eat sugar on a daily basis. Remember sugar is in almost everything: coffee, cookies, candies, pops, even in juice.

Every time you eat food containing sugar, you are feeding not only yourself but also these bacteria. At the same point in time, the small amount of contact with acid gets deeper and deeper and you are no longer able to clean it with brushing or flossing because the acid has eroded the enamel. This is a cracked tooth decay or a cavity.

In the beginning, tooth decay is not painful. It is like diabetes, very silent. But at some point, the hole gets so large that it begins to reach the nerves of the tooth. Ouch! That is when we dentists, get the "emergency call".

So theoretically, even if you have

tons of bacteria, if you do not eat any sugar, you will be fine. But I have never met a person who does not eat sugar or food containing sugar at all. So what do we do?

1. Reduce pops and sugar filled tea or coffee.
2. Start using sugar substitutes, Splenda, Equal, or sugar twin instead for coffee or tea.
3. Replace regular pops with diet pops.
4. Turn in for next discussion.

Now it is time the third key comes into the picture.

I will explain more about the third key and give you some tips next time. So tune in!

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at 199 Garrison Road, 905-871-2900 or 1000 Ridgeview Road, 905-894-5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.ingodentistry.com.

MPP Wayne Gates hits the streets to talk prescription drug prices

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

MPP Wayne Gates hit the streets last week to knock on doors to talk to Fort Erie residents about increasing prescription costs for seniors.

The politician spent last Thursday afternoon canvassing homes and businesses on Idylewyde Street and the surrounding area to gather signatures for a petition opposing the provincial government's budget plans to increase deductibles and co-pays under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program.

According to Gates, the deductible for most seniors will be increased from \$100 to \$170 and co-pays will increase from \$6.11 to \$7.11. He said approximately two-thirds of Canadian seniors take five or more drugs and numbers show that Ontario seniors spend an average of eight prescriptions for different drugs each year.

As the budget currently stands, prescriptions are set to "double for seniors".

"The premier is going to increase costs for any senior making over \$19,500 a year."

that puts a lot of seniors at risk. They're already paying steep hydro and gas bills and struggling to get by. I think seniors deserve to respect that they are seniors and bring their signatures directly to the Premier to show that people want this policy changed," Gates said.

The MPP has committed to canvassing homes in Fort Erie, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls until the provincial budget is approved.

"This is a big issue," Gates explained. "Seniors are struggling today. They are choosing between paying for prescriptions and other things they need to live. These are the people that built our country and we should be protecting them."

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Prom Project Niagara helps students dress in style

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

It's time to dig out that evening gown, or to start been sitting in the back of the closet for years and put it to good use.

Prom Project Niagara is accepting donations of men and women's formal wear to help high school students look fashionable and trendy at prom.

Sometimes families find it difficult to "pay for the little

extras" such as formal wear and all of the accessories—jewellery, shoes, clutches, etc.—that go with it, said Fort Erie Kinettes member Kelly Kendrick.

Four years ago, the Fort Erie Kinettes partnered with the Diva on a Dime Project and collected as many dresses and accessories as they could in order to style Fort Erie's high school graduates free of charge.

CONTINUED > PAGE 11

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

The Fort Erie Kinettes have partnered with Prom Project Niagara to help students in Grades 8 through 12 and post secondary dress in style for their prom or graduation. Items will be distributed free or charge on Saturday, April 9 at Fort Erie Secondary School. From left, are Kinettes members Louise Albert, Susan Shular and Kelly Kendrick.

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Donations of formal wear needed for program

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 10

Kendrick said much of the clothing that is up for grabs is gently used and some of it is new.

The best part about the Prom Project, Kendrick said, is it gives formal clothing a second chance to be worn again. Many people have been buying second-hand pants and shirts, sitting in their closets that have only been worn "once or twice."

The items will be distributed on Saturday, April 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Fort Erie Secondary School, Thorold Secondary School and Beamsville Secondary School.

Students will receive everything they need to look great

saferguson@postmedia.com

WHO: Prom Project Niagara

WHAT: Prom Project Niagara is a one-day event where high school students can find free formal wear for prom.

WHEN: Saturday, April 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Fort Erie Secondary School, Thorold Secondary School and Beamsville Secondary School.

WHY: To help high school students in need of an outfit for prom or graduation.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

• Prom Project Niagara is accepting new or gently used formal clothing for men and women. There is a great need for men's shoes as well as plus-sized dresses and jewelry for women.

• Drop off your donations to a PenFinancial Credit Union near you or a number of local businesses in Niagara.

DONATION LOCATIONS

- Fort Erie: PenFinancial Credit Union, 201 Jarvis St. and 1202 Garrison Rd.
- Fonthill: Quality Cleaners, 1419 Pelham St.
- Niagara Falls: Yazz Cleaners and Quick Stitch, 7637 Lund's Ln.
- Port Colborne: Lightright's Dry Cleaning, 388 King St.
- St. Catharines: Bev's Dry Cleaning Depot, 33 Lakeshore Rd.; Lake and Carlton Laundromat, 117 Carlton St.; The Chic Boutique, 43 Niagara St., Thorold Music, 289 Glendale St.
- Welland: Nick's Cleaners and Tailors, 483 East Main St.; Yazz Dry Cleaners and Quick Stitch, 600 Niagara St.; Fabricland, 34 Douglas Ave.

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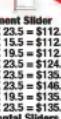
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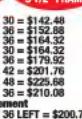
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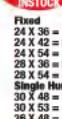
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Niagara Regional Police number being spoofed in tax scam



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Fraudsters have added a new twist to an ongoing tax scam. The fraudsters are spoofing the Niagara Regional Police phone number as part of the scam to give potential victims the impression that the police are calling.

"With the Revenue Canada scam, they have tapped into something," Det. Sgt Paul Spiridil said. "It's a big problem. They are trying to create a sense of panic. All adults identify with having to pay taxes."

"We are inundated with complaints. We are trying to get the word out, and it just keeps going. We have issued countless releases about it warning the public. Revenue Canada has it right on their website."

Initially, victims receive

phone calls from individuals claiming to work for Canada Revenue Agency and are told that they have an outstanding tax balance that, if not paid immediately, will result in their arrest.

The spoofed number displayed is spoofed, leading the victim to believe the call was from Canada Revenue Agency. Caller ID spoofing occurs when someone uses technology to make the call appear as if it is coming from another source.

If the victim doesn't make a payment, they receive a second call.

This time, the phone number displayed is the phone number for Niagara Regional Police.

The caller identifies himself as an NRP officer claiming the Canada Revenue Agency has filed a complaint and police have issued a warrant for the

victim's arrest.

The phony police officer will threaten to arrest the victim if the victim doesn't send the funds immediately.

"There are many groups that have latched onto this scheme," Spiridil said. "You are seeing different takes on the same scam. They were doing cold calls at first, but with all the attention, some people are calling furiously right now on the phone. They got tired of being hung up on or swore at, so they started doing robocalls where they are using an automated voice mail."

"If someone calls back or hits the number to speak to someone, they know they have a potential victim or someone who isn't aware of the scam."

Police are warning residents not to take immediate action and to verify the legitimacy of the communication before

providing personal information or money.

The NRP tells residents to contact Canada Revenue Agency directly by obtaining phone numbers from CRA's web page to verify that money is owed to by or to, or if the CRA requires additional information. Do not rely on the phone numbers provided by the caller.

Furthermore, the CRA will not ask for payment using money transfer services such as Western Union, Money Gram or e-transfers or an e-mail address.

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Annunziata tops regional council 2015 expenses report

MARYANNIE FIRK
Postmedia network

Sandy Annunziata believes elected officials have to cover a lot of ground to properly serve the people of Niagara.

That's the main reason why the Fort Erie regional councillor says he topped the list in billing for expenses in 2015, surpassed only by Regional Chair Alan Caslin.

A report outlining regional council's remuneration and expenses was released at a corporate services committee meeting Wednesday, though no discussion on the topic took place.

Annunziata was reimbursed \$15,206.61 in expenses, including \$7,691.85 for mileage, \$4,116.30 for conference-related expenses, \$2,042.16 listed as 'other' and an additional \$1,351.30 in Niagara Peoria Regional Conservation Authority expenses.

The 'other' category accounts for items such as non-conference related meals, events and functions, telephone, Internet, books, publications and miscellaneous expenses.

"About 90 per cent of my expenses were kilometres driven," Annunziata said by phone Thursday while on the GO train headed to a meeting at Queen's Park.

"I'm a boots on the ground kind of guy and this past year we've had a lot of heavy lifting."

Council, he said, wants to "ensure residents are getting value from the contributions of elected officials."

"I think to a large extent



Thorold Mayor Ted Luciani

WWW.FORTERIETIMES.CA

and 48 cents in excess of 5,000.

"I'm proud to say I'm everywhere throughout Niagara," Annunziata said, while noting he only expenses mileage outside of the greater Fort Erie area.

"My kilometres come from supporting my colleagues throughout the region, attending an incredible amount of committee meetings, board meetings and council functions throughout Niagara."

His Fort Erie home, he added, is "one of the farthest geographically from regional headquarters" with a round trip of about 90 kilometres.

Annunziata also pointed out that advancing significant investments and developments in Niagara, such as the

Canadian Motor Speedway, often means trips beyond the region's borders.

"I've lost count how many times I've met at ministers' offices in Toronto, advocating for the (CSM) project, meeting with MTO officials,

It's a lot of work and some-
thing I'm happy to do."

Caslin's pay and expenses far exceeded the individual total of all councillors with \$172,365.48 in 2015.

The chair was paid

\$121,103.66 with \$19,647.54

in benefits. He was reim-
bursed \$20,453.52 for a vehicle
allowance in lieu of a mileage
allowance, \$5,100.29 in conference-
related expenses and claimed
\$6,060.47 in 'other' expenses.

CONTINUED > PAGE 16

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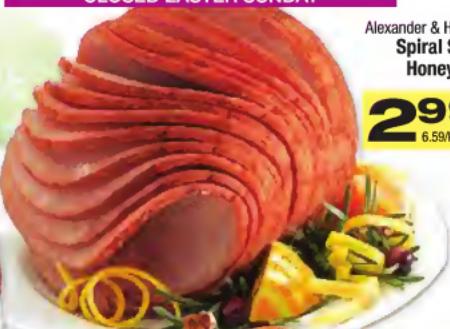
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Annunziata tops regional council 2015 expenses report

Continued From > Page 13

St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms topped the list among regional councillors in total regional expenses with \$60,210.47. The annual includes \$11,153.55 for chairing the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board, \$7,798.11 in benefits, \$1,140.48 in mileage, \$5,767.15 in conference-related expenses, \$958.42 in 'other' expenses, and \$11,133.90 in additional NPCA expenses. Thorold Mayor Ted Luciani's

expenses were the lowest among regional councillors, totalling \$479.46.

The full report can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/1WeYRsD>. Twinkie@Postmedia.com

Councillors with the highest expenses from Niagara Falls and Fort Erie

Fort Erie Coun. Sandy Annunziata: \$15,208.61, including \$7,691.85 for mileage, \$4,163.30 for conference-related expenses, \$2,042.16 for other expenses, and an additional \$1,350.30 in NPCA expenses.



Sandy Annunziata



Alan Caslin

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

Total remuneration and expenses

TOP 5

Bruce Timms	\$60,218.47
Andrew Petrowski	\$57,296.42
Bob Gale	\$55,953.67
Sandy Annunziata	\$54,865.87
Brian Batty	\$51,359.30
Alan Caslin	\$172,365.48

BOTTOM 5

Jim Dicash	\$320,711.02
Patrick Darte	\$36,955.23
Tim Rigby	\$36,877.65
Ted Luciani	\$34,400.66
Kelly Edgar	\$33,927.81

Total expenses

TOP 5

Sandy Annunziata	\$15,208.61
Paul Greiner	\$12,690.94
Tony Quirk	\$12,359.95
Bruce Timms	\$11,975.45
Andrew Petrowski	\$11,886.96
Alan Caslin	\$31,614.28

BOTTOM 5

George Marshall	\$2,086.00
Patrick Darte	\$1,056.03
Debbie MacGregor	\$1,952.75
Walter Sendzik	\$1,609.09
Ted Luciani	\$497.54



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Mark Fazekas



Deborah and Alain Longval of Ridgeway are thrilled
to announce the engagement of their daughter
Kristal Anne, to Mark Fazekas, son of Joseph and Leslee Fazekas
of Ridgeway. The joyous celebration will take place on May 2016.

Council didn't follow Municipal Act

According to a report from the Ontario Ombudsman's Office, Fort Erie council had an improper closed meeting on Dec. 14, 2015, which violated open-meeting provisions of the Municipal Act.

In the report provided by the provincial watchdog, the Ontario Ombudsman's Office stated staff received a complaint that Fort Erie's councillors met behind closed doors to view presentations that "provided a general overview of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and Town's insurance coverage."

The town of Fort Erie was notified of the complaint on Jan. 7 and the intention of the

Ontario Ombudsman's Office to investigate it.

As a result of the investigation, Barbara Finlay, Acting Ombudsman of Ontario, concluded the breach of the municipal act occurred when councillors met in a conference room for a special open meeting.

The conference room where the meeting was held is located in the basement of town hall that is not open to the public. Although the meeting was supposed to be open to the public, a locked security door prevented members of the public from accessing the conference room.

According to the report, the Town's clerk "monitored the area near the locked security door before the meeting

began" to see if any individuals "needed help getting through" the door to attend the meeting.

The door wasn't propped open "because of trespassing issues at the Town Hall," the report read.

In the report, the clerk stated the conference room was selected to hold the meeting "because it is smaller than council chambers and more conducive to training presentations."

When the meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m., "no members of the public arrived at (that) time."

Town of Fort Erie issued a press release last week which stated that "Town Council and staff take full responsibility for its actions" and "regret

not taking additional steps to ensure the meeting was accessible to all interested parties."

"In order to ensure this occurrence does not happen again, Town Council will be implementing all recommendations provided by the Ontario Ombudsman Office," the press release said.

The recommendations from the Ontario Ombudsman's Office include council meetings to ensure all open meetings are held in public spaces and that doors are kept open in order to provide access, councillors must adhere to the rules and regulations under the Municipal Act and a copy of both presentations from the Dec. 14 meeting will be made available to the public.

Council to consider zoning change for Erie Road property

The town of Fort Erie is considering an amendment to rezone property at 4152 Erie Rd., which currently serves as a parking lot for individuals who visit Bay Beach.

The zoning change would permit the construction of an apartment, street town houses and block houses in addition to the property's commercial uses. The zoning change would also ensure that future development of the land would adhere to the urban design guidelines set out in the Town's Bay Beach Master Plan, which was approved on Jan. 11.

The plan outlines

future land uses such as park improvements, opportunities for generating revenue, transportation and environmental stewardship.

A public meeting was held last Monday, giving residents an opportunity to speak about the potential zoning changes.

Residents expressed their concerns about property lines, lack of green space and whether or not apartments or townhouses would fit in with Crystal Beach's cottage-style community.

A second public meeting is planned for April 4. A report with recommendations provided by Town staff is expected to be presented at a future council meeting. The report will include residents' comments from both public meetings.

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Planning for Niagara's growth 25 years from now

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

Niagara needs to be collaborative, innovative and nimble to reach its full potential, according to the Niagara 2041 Growth Strategy.

Niagara was required to update its growth forecasts following changes to

Ontario's growth plan.

"The old strategy, the 2031 strategy, had about half the population growth that this one does, and the problem is that if we don't have this growth prospect in place than we can't develop our lands the way we should be able to," said Niagara Falls Reg. Coun. Selina Volpatti.

Diana Morreale, manager of community, planning and development services for Niagara Falls, made a presentation to Niagara Falls city council this week about the 2041 strategy.

Volpatti was also in attendance.

Morreale played a five-minute video outlining

how regional officials will plan for the next 25 years.

The video's script was written by regional staff, but was narrated by actor Brent Meidinger. "A key to growing our population is gaining private-sector investment. This growth won't just happen all by itself, though. We need to make it hap-

pen. We need a strategy that's collaborative, innovative and nimble," said Meidinger.

He said between 2011 and 2041, the province has forecasted Niagara to gain almost 170,000 new residents and 80,000 new jobs. But the region is not on target to achieve those goals.

procedures and processes to make sure that high-quality development is easy."

Meidinger said that is the only way Niagara can compete with neighbouring regions such as Hamilton or the Greater Toronto Area.

"When businesses are considering investing in our communities, they are looking for business-friendly development policies and a talented work force."

As part of the 2041 strategy, the Region is undertaking a transportation master plan, a water and wastewater servicing plan and a municipal comprehensive review will look at available land across Niagara to "ensure we have enough to sustain our expected growth."

Volpatti said there are lands along the Queen Elizabeth Way between Niagara Falls and Fort Erie that should be developed.

"That's our gateway into the American market, it's our gateway into Toronto," she said. "Surely, businesses would like to develop here, but we have to have shovel-ready premises that these people can move into."

Volpatti said Niagara is fortunate to have Brock University and Niagara College, "two institutions that are always at the forefront of innovation and technology."

"Brock has all those incubators that they're doing now for science and technology. Niagara College is expanding its curriculum to include all kinds of skills that weren't there before."

Niagara Region chairman Alan Caslin said a more collaborative relationship among Niagara municipalities will go a long way to the region's future success.

"This is the first time in a long time that we've had the relationships that we do have between municipalities, and we all understand the benefit and advantages that we get from working together, as opposed to working at odds or working competitively against one another."

"All of our communities need to be business friendly and make private-sector investment easy."

This means we need to

look at all of our policies,

rsipiter@postmedia.com

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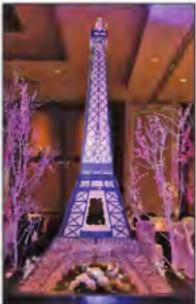
One Foundation for Niagara Health System welcomed 300 guests on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at the Springtime in Paris Gala, an awe-inspiring Parisian themed event supporting the Niagara Health System Surgical Program.

With the iconic 'City of Lights' as the muse, guests were swept away overseas for the evening as the Sheraton on the Falls hotel was transformed into the charming streets of Paris – romantic scenery, fresh blooms, French music, live art and a 12 foot Eiffel Tower to top it off.

Over \$40,000 was raised at the event for the Surgical Program, which provides life-saving, close-to-home care for more than 24,000 patients across Niagara each year.

To view more photos from the event, please visit www.OneFoundationforNHS.com.

Photo credit: Muir Image Photography



Parisian themed decor set the mood for the evening including a 12-ft Eiffel Tower centering the ballroom.

A look back
at the week
in Niagara

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Our Niagara



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Douglas Scott, OC, Hugh Farrell, Alice Kanner, Jim Garrett



Dianne Kirwin, Dayle Bones, Mark Crossman, Bruce Bones, Justin & Justine MacDonald



Kara Digenis, Christine Watt, Marie Ellis, Anna Scott



Angela & Mary Muraco



NHS President Dr. Suzanne Johnston & John Johnston



Carmel LaSelva & Melissa Villardebo



Dr. Satish & Chickey Chawla, Marti & Peter Jarmain



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From left, Katie Kuhn, Joanne Sam, Lisa Romeo and Damon Romeo sold cupcakes during the Cupcakes for Cancer Fundraiser last Thursday. All of the proceeds will benefit Ronald McDonald House Hamilton.

Cupcake sale helps families in the fight against cancer

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

dose of chemotherapy sometime around April 7, his mom said.

"His body is weak and it's definitely showing signs of damage but Tristan is a fighter."

Romeo is grateful for Ronald McDonald House Hamilton, where she is able to stay with Tristan while he receives treatments.

"We've been staying 75-plus days there and it's been a huge help—and absolutely amazing," Romeo said.

"They kept us well fed with two meals a day and the accommodations were beautiful."

Romeo said the cupcake fundraiser was a way for the Romeo's to say thank you to the community and the charity for all of the support the family has received.

The Romeos also held a cupcake fundraiser at Garrison Road Public School last month and they are hoping to hold another one in April.

"When we've finished our cupcake fundraiser, Tristan, and his friend, Edan Martin, will deliver a cheque to Ronald McDonald House Hamilton," Romeo said.

"Tristan will have his last

sferguson@postmedia.com

NOTICE TO PENFINANCIAL CREDIT UNION MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Penfinancial Credit Union members are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Membership Meeting of their credit union. Penfinancial Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative organization. As a member you have the right to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to listen first-hand about the performance of your credit union, its plans for the future, and much more. It will be a very informative and enjoyable event, designed especially for our members.

BUSINESS SESSION

The Board will present to the members:

- The audited financial statements of the credit union
- The report of the Audit Committee
- Such further information respecting the financial position of the credit union and the results of its operations as the Board deems necessary to be presented to the members

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Non-members will be invited to attend from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. Non-members on the Board of Directors were closed effective December 31, 2015 in accordance with the Credit Union's by-laws. There will be no election to the Board of Directors for the year. However, if Directors were to be re-elected, four for three year terms and one for a two year term.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT

All members are to be considered at this meeting, to facilitate the Credit Union's review of the assets of Domville and District Credit Union Limited ("Domultra"). The Credit Union will present to the members for confirmation amendments to its by-laws to reflect the transfer of the assets of Domultra to the Credit Union. The members will be asked to vote on the Credit Union's Board of Directors to accept or not accept the transfer of the assets of Domultra. The members will be asked to vote on the members and to defer by one year the scheduled induction at the use of the Board from 12 to 11 members.

*Members who do not wish to receive a mailing may request after April 4, 2016, that the newsletter be removed from Credit Union's mailing list.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Penfinancial Credit Union Centre
8444 Lund's Lane, Niagara Falls, ON
8-9 am Registration, entertainment
has a classroom and refreshments
7 pm Business Session begins
Register for the AGM at
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Rebecca Howell
Rebecca Howell
Director of Governance, Risk and Compliance



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Damage to Ridgeway home put at \$175,000

SARAH FERGUSON
For Erie Times

Damage is estimated to be \$175,000 after a two-storey house on Dominion Road caught fire early last Thursday morning.

The Fort Erie Fire Department was called to 3705 Dominion Rd., at 2:12 a.m. to extinguish the fire that "appears to have started on the side of the house," fire Chief Larry Coplen said.

The fire department dispatched 47 firefighters from four stations to fight the fire. Firefighters from the four different stations were "rotated so the crews were not over-worked."

According to Coplen, the fire was "tricky" due to the "type of construction of the house."

"The fire just kept popping up in different areas," Coplen said.

It took firefighters over an hour to control the blaze.

"It was just very, very smoky. The weather conditions held the smoke down and the conditions made it difficult for firefighters to fight the fire," Coplen said.

The family that lives in the house — two

adults and six children — escaped the building prior to the arrival of the fire department.

Niagara Emergency Medical Services, Niagara Regional Police and crews from Canadian Niagara Power and Enbridge attended the structure fire.

Paramedics assessed the individuals that escaped the fire for injuries. No one was transported to hospital.

NRP Const. Phil Gavin said police officers "worked with fire to help manage the scene, which included traffic control."

An online fundraiser has been created to help the family replace all the items they lost as a result of the fire. Visit www.gofundme.com/3at2kwv to make a donation.

The Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Kinsmen are also hosting a spaghetti dinner for the family on March 23 at the service club's hall, 2973 Hyman Ave., Ridgeway.

Dinner will be served from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 at the door, \$5 for children 12 and under and \$15 to bring your own bowl for take-out.

saferguson@postmedia.com



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Ice boom removed

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The removal of the Niagara River Ice Boom was underway last week.

Personnel from the New York Power Authority began opening the boom's 22 spans last Tuesday.

As a result of the mild weather conditions this winter season, a significant amount of ice cover on Lake Erie never materialized, making conditions ideal for the ice boom's removal.

Last year, the boom opening began on April 20. The latest date for the start of the boom opening was May 3, 1971 and the earliest start date was Feb. 28, 2012.

The ice boom, which has been installed between Fort Erie and Buffalo, N.Y. each winter since 1964, is designed to reduce the severity of ice jams from Lake Erie into the Niagara River and maintain water flow for hydro-electric power production.

The boom consists of floating steel pontoons which are linked together

and anchored to the bottom of the lake.

When a storm occurs, large masses of ice can form against the boom. When this happens, the boom submerges itself, allowing the ice to override it until the pressure is relieved.

Following a storm, the boom resurfaces and restrains ice which would otherwise flow down the river.

The boom is installed when the water temperature reaches 4°C or on Dec. 16—whichever comes first. It is usually removed on April 1 or when there is less than 645-square-kilometres of ice in the eastern basin of Lake Erie between Long Point, Ont., and Erie, Pa.

The boom is owned and operated by the New York Power Authority and Ontario Power Generation. The use of the boom is authorized by the International Joint Commission with its International Niagara Board of Control overseeing the installation, operation and removal.

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Horse rescue hosts Easter open house

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The Easter Bunny will be hopping her way to the Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue and Sanctuary this weekend.

The fifth annual Easter Open House will be held Saturday, March 19 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Founded in 2007 in Crys-

tal Beach, the Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue on Restock Road is currently home to more than 30 horses and ponies.

With support from volunteers and donations from the community, the farm provides a home and a place for unwanted or abused animals to be rehabilitated. The horses come from a variety of backgrounds. Many of the

horses are former racehorses who had their careers cut short due to injury.

"We hold the open house each year to allow the community to come and meet the horses and us," said the rescue's founder, Sharon Allen.

"We do this each year for the kids and of course, to raise awareness about (the Sanctuary) and make people

aware that we are here."

The event is free for everyone and includes egg decorating, horse and pony rides, a penny sale and a bake sale.

There will be egg hunts for children ages 12 and under beginning at 3 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to children who find special eggs.

saferguson@postmedia.com

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St. George students send help to South Sudan

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The Grade 6 students at St. George Catholic Elementary School were moved by what they read in a book, *A Long Walk to Water*, written by Linda Sue Park, so they decided they wanted to do something to help.

A Long Walk to Water, tells the true story of Salva Dut, a young boy who lived in Sudan in 1985 during a period of civil unrest.

But became one of

thousands of children, mostly boys who became known as "the Lost Boys" of Sudan. They fled through war-torn desert to find safety. He went to Ethiopia first, and then led 1,500 "Lost Boys" through the Sudan desert to a refugee camp in Kenya.

But came to live in the U.S. in 1996. In 2003, he founded a non-profit organization based in Rochester, N.Y., called Water for South Sudan.

The organization drills water wells in South

Sudan so the people who

live there can have access to clean and safe drinking water.

South Sudan, which received its independence in 2011 and is the world's newest country, has seen a significant amount of development in the last few years.

The students said they learned much of South Sudan's rural areas still lack basic infrastructure such as roads, utilities and basic sanitation. Many of the country's wells are in rural areas where there is no electricity and people

are unable to travel to for half of the year because of the country's rainy season.

This year, Water for South Sudan issued the Iron Giraffe Challenge to school children around the world to help the children of South Sudan by raising funds for the organization.

The class approached their principal, Roseanne Sandel, with a presentation about what they learned when they read Park's book. The students asked if they could hold a

number of events in order to raise \$1,000 to send to Water for South Sudan to help make a difference in the lives of the people who live in South Sudan.

Much to the students' excitement, Mrs. Sandel agreed and the students set to work to achieve their goal. They sold candy grams at Christmas, cookie grams on Valentine's Day and even held an after school movie event to raise the money to meet their goal.

The money they collected would be put toward the purchase of a drilling

rig, also known as an Iron Giraffe, which costs approximately \$20,000.

As part of the challenge, the St. George students have a chance to win an opportunity have Dut or Park visit their school, or have a Skype chat with Dut.

The students wish to thank everyone who supported their fundraising efforts, including fellow students, teachers, members of the community and The Happy Bakery, which donated cookies used to make cookie grams and to raise money.

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

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The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie invite qualified professional engineering firms to provide proposals for two projects consisting of the complete reconstruction of Highland Ave and Stanton Street with replacement of the existing watermain, sanitary and storm sewers. Sealed proposals clearly marked as to contents will be received by Bart Ménage, Manager, Purchasing and Finance Services, Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario, until

2:00 p.m. local time on WEDNESDAY MARCH 30th, 2016

This bid opportunity may be obtained at www.biddinggo.com/forterie or alternatively, by contacting the Manager, Procurement and Risk Management at bmenga@forterie.ca

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie reserves the right to reject any or all submissions and the lowest or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES: ENGINEERING

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS

Residents are reminded that **no overnight winter parking** is permitted in the Town of Fort Erie between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. from November 1 through March 31 of the following year. The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be enforcing Traffic By-law No. 84-2014. The fine for this offence is \$40.00 and in addition, your vehicle may be towed at your expense.



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RADIO EMERGENCY INFORMATION 91.7 FM - 105.7 FM - 610 AM

TENDER FOR

SURFACE TREATMENT 2016 - ISE-16T-RSRF(ST)16

HOT MIX ASPHALT 2016 - ISE-16T-RSRF(H)16

ASPHALT PATCHING PROGRAM 2016 - ISO-16T-ASPHPA

As part of the Town's annual road maintenance program, the following tenders are being issued:

ISE-16T-RSRF(ST)16

The work consists of pulverizing existing road surfaces using a mechanical pulverizer, placing a layer of R.A.P. and placing a layer of emulsified asphalt and aggregate.

ISE-16T-RSRF(H)16

The work consists of milling and paving of various road sections within the municipality. The contract shall also include pulverizing of existing road surfaces using a mechanical pulverizer and paving new hot mix asphalt road surfaces.

ISE-16T-ASPHPA16

This work includes the application of HL3 HS and HL8 HS, base repairs, asphalt milling, sidewalk and curb repair on municipal roadways, driveways and parking lots.

Sealed tenders addressed to Laura Bubanko, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk, will be received by the Customer Service Unit (CSU) at 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario until

2:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME on: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2016

All formal competitive bid opportunities are posted at www.biddingo.com/forterie and effective Tuesday, March 19th, 2016, tender documents can either be purchased from the Town Hall, Infrastructure Services upon payment of twenty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents (\$28.25) or viewed at the Niagara Construction Association Offices located at 34 Scott Street, St. Catharines, Ontario.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all tenders and the lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

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Bouquet for a mom

A bouquet for my mom who searched for hours to find my lost bathing suit. Although it's likely never to be seen or heard from again, I appreciate the fact that you tried to find it.

Bouquet for a neighbour

We have a new neighbour who used his snow blower to do mine and my neighbour's driveway this winter. We older people are lucky to have such a good neighbour.

Brick for mailing a decision

A brick for a local baker who felt the need to "call out" another baker for providing the same service. If you were good at your craft, a bit of competition wouldn't scare you!

Bouquet for spring

A bouquet for spring. I am so happy it is finally here. The sun is coming out more often and I can hear the lovely sound of birds chirping.

Bouquet for a firefighter

A very sincere thank you for the firemen who responded so quickly to my

call re my carbon monoxide detector. We should all be very grateful that we have these brave men who will come to our rescue.

Brick for bad drivers

A brick for the drivers that ride my bumper because I am going the speed limit! I am going that speed because it is the law and because I have my child in the car. If you don't like it too bad, go-around and get a ticket!

Bouquet of thanks

A bouquet of thanks to the honest person who returned my purse to me. I had left it in the shopping cart outside a grocery store in Ridgeway. I am so grateful to the person who returned it.

Bouquet for nursing staff

A bouquet for the staff for all they do for my mom and dad and the other residents at a seniors' home in Ridgeway.

Bouquet for a helpful neighbour

A huge bouquet for my neighbor down on Berte Street who not only plowed our driveway after the big snow but did all the neighbours on entire street! Thank you so much! There truly are good people in this town!

Send us your bricks and bouquets

Has someone done something nice for you and you would like to thank them? Do you have something to complain about? Send us your bricks and bouquets by e-mail to saferguson@postmedia.com, or drop them off to Fort Erie Times, 336 Central Ave., Fort Erie, Ont.; L2A 3T6.

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Niagara Parks film, TV permits spiked in 2015

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Ontario's film and TV industry had its best year ever in 2015, and the Niagara Parks played a large part.

Niagara Parks Commission chairwoman Janice Thomson says there were 70 permits issued for film and TV productions last year, a 17% increase over 2014.

She credits last year's 'Frozen Falls' stories, Will Gadd's ice climb along the edge of the Horseshoe Falls in January and general interest in the Canadian federal election for the spike in permits.

"Also, when there's something of international interest," she adds. "There was the Paris and Pompeii and Grauman's. We had a lot of film crews from other countries coming in. They wanted the falls as a backdrop."

While no major movies set up production, TV shows included Ontario's *Rebom* and Netflix's *Hemlock Grove*.

Several TV news and talk shows also sought permits, which only cost \$250 each. Thomson says some crews, such as the Weather Channel, only required two people.

Each request is evaluated by Parks staff for its content and whether filming will significantly interfere with visitors.

"Our first mandate is to try and keep things as open as possible to the public," says Thomson.



Dominic Chan/Wendi Deng

Hemlock Grove was one of 70 film and TV productions that filmed on Niagara Parks property last year.

son. "For example, if someone comes and said 'We want to do a feature film inside Journey Behind the Falls for four weeks,' that would not likely go anywhere."

Locations directly in front of the falls remain the most popular, she says, but others along the Niagara Parkway are also sought for their historic importance.

One of them is off the market, however: the Parks has removed its four power plant buildings for use because of public safety concerns.

Last Wednesday, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport announced the film and TV industry contributed \$1.5 billion to the province's economy in 2015, supporting more than 32,000 full-time and associated

jobs (an increase of 4,500 jobs over 2014).

The record-breaking year saw films like the Oscar-winning *Spotlight* and Oscar-nominated *Room* film in Ontario, along with network TV fare like *Murdoch Mysteries*.

Foreign spending was up 52 per cent over 2015, contributing \$763 million to the economy.

Ontario remains the top TV and film production centre in Canada and third-largest in North America, behind California and New York.

On Sunday night, the CBS show *American Gothic* filmed inside the Thorold Tunnel. West-bound lanes were closed from 6 p.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday.

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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Friday, March 25
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Banquet Hall



stjohnsstevensvilleunitedchurch.com

The Stevensville United Church was one near five thousand Methodist congregations which became part of the United Church of Canada in 1925. Like neighbouring congregations it had a Pennsylvania Dutch majority, but opted for English services in deference to the growing English-speaking population. The church was built by the Empire Loyalists Records go back to 1872 when the congregation was meeting in houses, and the church, now a residence near the main intersection, was built in 1885. Split by controversy in 1990 over ordination and marriage of gay persons, the progressive element joined with similar factions in the rural "Sauer Church" and both became part of what is now the St. John's Stevensville United Church.

Sunday worship service 11:00 am; only minutes to Sodan Rd, Ft. Erie, just north of Stevensville, QEW exits 16 & 17.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Call or stop in at 336 Central Ave. Fort Erie
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IT BUSINESS SUPPORT ANALYST

Under the general direction of the Supervisor, IT Business Support, or delegate, the candidate will be responsible for daily management of the helpdesk, providing the highest level of support possible and to act as the primary contact to the SAP and end user community within FortisOntario, affiliated partners, and external agencies. The candidate will be responsible to field, organize, troubleshoot, and provide logical solutions through dataset analysis of incoming requests. This role will require the ability to interpret, understand, execute, manage multiple projects, and the aptitude to prioritize responsibilities ensuring deadlines are met.

The IT Business Support Analyst will utilize the subject matter expertise of internal business units to refine, validate, and manage business requirements as well as document business process flows and perform analysis with respect to assigned projects. Candidates will prepare test scenarios, facilitate training as necessary, develop technical documents, and facilitate all projects throughout their life cycle.

In order to be successful in this position the candidate will require a combination of communication skills, account management, technical, professional, demand and the ability to develop relationships with all levels of the Company. If you are seeking a rewarding career and opportunity to work both independently and part of a dynamic team, and enjoy a professional work environment with great growth potential - we encourage you to apply.

The successful candidate shall have the following minimum qualifications to be considered:

- College diploma or university degree, preferably in the field of computers science and/or information systems.
- Experience with business support/improvement and associated documentation.
- Strong customer service and interpersonal skills and the ability to foster positive relationships.
- Excellent analytical, problem solving, and organization skills are necessary for this position.
- Proven experience with troubleshooting principles, methodologies, and issue resolution techniques.
- Effective negotiations skills, able to facilitate collaboration between groups.
- Advanced Microsoft Office skills.
- Three (3) to five (5) years experience with SAP would be considered an asset.
- Experience with the operation of the designated Ontario electricity would be an asset.
- Travel to other FortisOntario locations is a requirement of this position. Candidate must possess and maintain a valid "G" Ontario driver's license with a clean driving record.

Qualified and interested candidates should submit their cover letter and resume to Human Resources no later than March 31, 2016 by e-mail to HR@fortisontario.com.

Please indicate "IT BUS SUPPORT" in the subject line.

We thank all respondents for their interest, however, we will only respond to those selected for an interview. FortisOntario is committed to accommodating applicants with disabilities and will work with applicants requesting accommodation at any stage of the recruitment cycle.

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Birthdays

Birthdays

Cards of Thanks

Cards of Thanks



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MARGARET GROBOWSKY
March 17th
Still Amazing at 98
Love Always, Linda and Pat



The family of the late Gerry LeBlanc would like to extend their gratitude to all the family and friends who gave their presence and support during this difficult time. Additional thanks to the immediate family for all your extra efforts despite your own grief. Thank you to Neil Stevens for your heartfelt effort and CPR training. Thank you to the Fort Erie Department of Emergency Services and Ambulance personnel for your quick response. Bennett Funeral Home for their professional and caring staff who flew easily across the country to be with us in mere minutes due to illness. Thank you as well to the Fort Erie Legion Branch 71 for a lovely reception for all. Lastly we would like to thank the many generous donations to The Salvation Army and beautiful floral arrangements.

Happy 88th Birthday to Lynn Parry
March 16th

Love and best wishes always.
Your loving family, granddaughter Christi,
great-granddaughters Celeste and Grace,
and friends. Way to go Nan!

Coming Events

Coming Events

ALZHEIMER Society Niagara Region
Support Groups for Care Partners meets
first Thurs. of each month(except July &
Aug) 1:00-2:30pm Residence on Garrison,
373 Garrison Rd. Fort Erie. 905-867-5914

Seniors - The Long Douglas Senior Centre at
269 Ninth St. is hosting a Senior Services Seminar.
Tues., Apr. 5 from 11am-2pm. Seniors come
and learn about the services in our community
including a senior bus, senior meal program, etc.
Tickets must be purchased at the Centre before
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HUIBERT (Herb) VAN DER KRAAN

March 18, 2006
10 years have passed since you left us

Everyday in some small way,
Memories of you come our way.

Farwar in our hearts, still loved,
still missed. Until we meet again.
Wanda Van Der Kraan and all the
family, send their love to Fr. Joe Ingrao
for all your kindness and for being there for
my father on his last night. Our family will
never forget your kindness.

GOODAYLE, Alan Harry Born October 19, 1934 passed away on February 5, 2016 at Douglas Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara Anne Goodayle (nee Montgomery), his son Christopher (Chris) Goodayle and his wife Karen Goodayle and his 4 grandchildren: Brianne Goodayle, Teegan and Douglas Tulk and Emily Rose Currie. A memorial will be held on March 19, 2016 from 1-4 at the Legion Hall in Ridgeway. A special thank you to Dr. Scher and the nurses at Douglas Memorial. An especially thank you to Fr. Joe Ingrao for all your kindness and for being there for my father on his last night. Our family will never forget your kindness.

LASZEK, Paul Michael - June 12, 1969 in Fort Erie, Ontario. March 6, 2016 at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo. Loved and loving brother of Irene (Ken) Goodayle (nee Bak), Roger (Dawn) (2013), John (Christine) Timothy (1989) and Roger. Predeceased by Father Andrew (1976) and Mother Jennifer (2007). Loving and caring uncle of Stacia Bak and Robert Goodayle. Great Uncle of Brynn and twins. Paul worked for many years as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor throughout Buffalo and Western New York. He was recently employed by Aspira of WNY. Paul will be sadly missed by his family, many friends and colleagues. A Funeral Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 19, 2016 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 1000 Central Ave., Fort Erie, ON on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 11 a.m. Donations in memory of Paul can be made to Head Injury Association of Fort Erie & District Niagara, 8100 Fort Erie, ON L2A 3H7 905-871-7789 and would be appreciated by his family.

**Nothing is
really lost
as long as you
remember it.**

- Ally Condie,



PRINGLE, Dora Irene - Passed away suddenly on Saturday March 12, 2016 at the Welland Hospital at the age of 86. Beloved wife of the late Leslie Pringle, dear mother of the late Leslie (Lester) Lambert, late Jack (Janie) and Cheryl (Gino) Spada. Cherished grandmother of Lezlie (Jeff), Renee, Deanna (James), Kendra (Dennis), Stacey, Bryan, Matthew (Jasmine) and Stephanie. Great-grandmother of Jaxon, Mackenzie, Ethan, Tae, Nina and Sloan. Sister of the late Edna (the late) Olive and the late Gordon. Dora was the owner of The Chocolate Outlet in downtown Ridgeway for many years. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway A private family burial has taken place at Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

JOHNSON, Kenneth Brian - Passed away at his home on Wednesday, March 9th, 2016. Kenneth was the beloved son of the late Ethel (McGinn) (2013), James Johnson (2002) and grandson of Jim Johnson (2000). He will be sadly missed by his big brothers Jimmy and Terry Johnson and his remaining sister Sandra. His sisters in law, Suzanne and Wendy will miss him along with his many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. His dog Rover will be greatly missed. A private family service. **FUNERAL SERVICES**, Ridgeway, entrusted with private arrangements. Cremation has taken place. Donations to the Fort Erie SPCA would be greatly appreciated as "Bam Bam" loved all animals.

Those we love don't go away, they walk
beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but
always near. Still loved, still missed and
very dear. - Unknown



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Still loved, still missed and very dear.

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PUTMAN, Janet -

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Canucks eliminate Meteors from playoffs

BILL POTRECZ
Postmedia Network

The Niagara Falls Canucks
Canucks withstand a furious, late rally to eliminate the Fort Erie Meteors 7-5 and advance in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, Golden Horseshoe Conference playoffs.

The Canucks took the best-of-seven quarter-final playoff series 4-1 and now take on the two-time defending champion Caledonia Corvairs in a best-of-seven semifinal that was tentatively set to start yesterday in Caledonia. Game 2 would go Friday in Niagara Falls.

The Canucks outscored the Meteors 22-16 in the series which featured three games settled by two goals and two others by three goals.

"We knew we had a good hockey club," Canucks coach Frank Pietrangelo said. "For some reason people overlooked us. A lot of people might have thought Fort Erie have been play-

ing really well and they're going to take the series. We never thought that for a second."

Pietrangelo said the final score may have been a bit misleading.

"We played 15 periods and we lost one period," he said. "As far as we were concerned, we were the better club every night game in and game out," he said. Both Pietrangelo and Fort Erie coach Rob Hubbard felt special teams were the key.

"Our power play completely dominated them. It was at 26 per cent," Pietrangelo said. "There wasn't any adjustments made by their staff and we kept doing the same things and obviously we were successful."

"Their power play was going and ours wasn't," Hubbard said. "Special teams and goaltending is going to go a long way and their special teams were better than ours."

"They got a few lucky breaks but they also played

hard so congratulations to Niagara Falls."

In Game 5, the Canucks raced out to a quick 3-0 lead in the first period and led 6-3 after two. The Meteors rallied with a pair of late goals before the Canucks iced it away with an empty net marker.

Zack Lansfield paced the Canucks with two goals while Phillip Chadder, Peter Falivena, Luke Laurin, Austin Bottrell and Matthew Marsden added singles.

Rookie Daniel Singer paced the Meteors with four goals while Holden Garfield added one.

"We had a 6-3 lead going into the third period. Things got a little bit out of hand with penalties so things changed," Pietrangelo said. "Kids get a little tired and it's not the physical mistakes, it's the mental mistakes."

"It got a little bit hairy at the end."

Overall, Hubbard said he was proud of how well his inexperienced players responded.

"We had a very young team and made great strides this year," he said. "No excuse, I thought our kids played great."

"We didn't have great starts and now you're playing catch up and it's hard to do that."

The Meteors improved by 10 games in the standings this season.

"We improved and finished fifth and no one thought we were going to finish fifth," Hubbard said. "It's a success for us as far as the building blocks are there for us."

bpotrecz@postmedia.com
twitter@BILIPSstandard



Zack Lansfield of the Niagara Falls Canucks, seen in this file photo, had two goals as the Canucks eliminated the Fort Erie Meteors with a 7-5 win Friday.

JULIE JOSCA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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Niagara Health System recruiting two members for Board of Directors

Niagara Health is inviting applications for two (2) new Directors on its volunteer Board of Directors.

A multi-site hospital serving the residents of Niagara, Niagara Health provides a wide range of inpatient and outpatient clinics and services, including care in the following service areas: Medicine, Surgery, Emergency and Urgent Care, Kidney, Cardiac, Mental Health and Addictions, Cancer and Long-Term Care.

Niagara Health is focused on extraordinary caring, care that is high-quality, safe and patient-centred. This is combined with a commitment to work with our community partners to build a healthier Niagara.

The Board is seeking Directors who have demonstrated leadership and experience governing a high-quality organization, and a commitment to our Vision, Mission and Values, with experience in:

- Quality and patient safety;
- Finance, with a finance or Chartered Professional Accountant designation required;
- Legal and/or risk management;
- Engineering and/or construction.

Please read the role description and download an application form available on our website, www.niagarahealth.on.ca.

To express your interest, please submit the completed application and your resume to Dr. Barry Wright, Chair, Nominating Committee c/o Danielle Dube by April 8, 2016.

For more information, please call Danielle Dube at 905-378-4647 ext. 43103 or email Danielle.dube@niagarahealth.on.ca





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Saturday March 19th, 2016

AUCTION AT 12:00 PM, VIEWING AT 11PM

**Visa, M/C, Debit, Cash, 12% recovery fee shall apply,
Standard Auction Terms & Cond. Apply, as per auctioneer.**

